

CEMP-ET (1110)/S/ 20 November 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Disposition of the Military Programs Mandatory Centers of Expertise

1. Reference:

a. CEMP-ZK Memorandum dated 5 December 1994, Subject: Adjusting to Downward Trend in Military Workload.

b. CECG Memorandum dated 19 June 1995, Subject: Adjusting to Downward Trend in Military Workload -- Decisions on Corporate Direction.

2. Reference 1.a. initiated a study of military programs in response to a downward trend in military workload. As part of this study, the need for all the military programs mandatory centers of expertise (except OEW and HTRW) were to be re-validated. The centers involved in the study were:

- a. Army Range and Training Land Program
- b. Transportation Systems
- c. Utility Monitoring and Control Systems
- d. Intrusion Detection Systems
- e. Protective Design

3. Based on the initial input from the divisions and districts, the HQUSACE study team developed and presented a set of options to the USACE Commander for corporate level decision. The USACE Commander, by memorandum to all Major Subordinate Commands, reference 1.b., made several decisions on the direction military programs should take in adjusting to future workload reduction. His decision guidance on the mandatory centers, paragraph 3.e. of that memorandum, tasked the Military Programs Directorate to review the requirements for the above five mandatory centers and establish a fee-for-service funding system to become effective by the end of FY96.

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4. A review of the mandatory centers of expertise was completed and results included in report "Adjusting to the Downward Trend in Military Workload" dated 28 July 1995; reference 1.c. The MSC and district commands have reviewed the report and comments regarding the centers of expertise have been appraised with appropriate action being taken. Each of these centers provides a unique or exceptional technical capability in a highly specialized subject area. Many of these military unique engineering expertise are not readily available from the private sector and must be retained within the USACE. These centers have been created in response to either a directive from higher authority or a request from the customer. In either case, the underlying reasons were the same, i.e., no central point of contact, expertise either non-existent or scattered throughout USACE, and poor track record in executing contracts which included these unique technical requirements. These reasons are just as valid now as they were then. With the continued pressure on manpower authorizations, it is not feasible to maintain these highly specialized expertise in all districts, and the centers provide the only economical means of responding to the needs of the Army and our customers.

5. Based on the information presented to me, I have decided to retain the above five centers and continue their mandatory status. The centers will be funded primarily through fee-for-service beginning with FY97, with some minimal funding by HQUSACE for providing direct support to this Directorate. By separate memoranda, the centers' assigned commands will be given specific guidance on authorized FTEs and funding levels from HQUSACE.

6. All USACE commands are required to use the designated services provided by these centers as stipulated in applicable documents. I ask each MSC Commander to take personal interest in ensuring that their district utilize these centers of expertise at the earliest stages of design or review in order to get the full benefits of their knowledge and experience and avoid future cost growth.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

/S/

ALBERT J. GENETTI, JR.
Major General, USA
Director of Military Programs